(iii) Standards and guidelines for control of noise pollution from stationary diesel generator sets have been evolved and notified in January, 1999.

(iv) A Notification has also been issued specifying the standards for fire crackers in October, 1999.

(v) The Noise Pollution (Regulation & Control) Rules, 2000 has been notified on 14th February, 2000.

(vi) A code of practice has been evolved by the Central Pollution Control Board for control of noise.

Bio-diversity hot spots

5060. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the places, including those in Indian sub-continent, identified as bio-diversity hot spots by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), indicating specialities of each spot;

(b) the position of the North-Eastern Region in the global environment map, especially in the context of environment pollution and endangered species;

(c) the State-wise list of endangered species now available in the North-Eastern Region; and

(d) the specific environmental problem identified and protective measures finalised to save ecology of the North- Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Dr. Norman Myers, a British scientist has identified 18 biodiversity hot spots in the world. These include Cape Region (South Africa), Upland Western Amazonia, Atlantic coastal Brazil, Madagascar, Philippines, Borneo (north), Eastern Himalaya, SW Australia, Western Ecuador, Colombian Choco, Peninsular Malaysia, Californian floristic province, Western Ghats, Central Chile, New Caladonia, Eastern Arc Mts (Tanzania), SW Sri Lanka, SW Cote d' Ivoire. North Eastern Region falls under the Eastern Himalaya hot spot. The other hot spot of the Indian subcontinent is Western Ghats. These hot spots are characterised by high concentration of endemic species and rapid rates of habitat loss.

(c) The Botanical Survey of India and Zoological Survey of India are compiling Red Data Books on threatened species of plants and animals of the country. So far 622 species of plants and 276 species of animals experiencing various degrees of threats have been listed in these books. There is no separate State-wise list of endangered species for the north-eastern region.

(d) Specific environmental problems of North-Eastern Region include deforestation, illegal poaching of wild animals, shifting cultivation, and soil erosion. A number of programmes are currently being implemented for saving the ecology of the region. These *inter alia* included:

* Survey, identification and monitoring of the floral and faunal resources by the BSI and ZSI, respectively;
* in-situ conservation through Protected Area Network consisting of National Parks and Wildlife, Sanctuaries, designation of representative eco-systems as Biosphere Reserves, species specific conservation programmes such as Project Tiger, Project Elephant and Project Rhino;
* eco-development activities in and around protected areas;
* ex-situ conservation through botanic gardens and zoological parks;
* promotion of Joint Forest Management, micro-planning and incorporation of improved technologies;
* The north-east unit of G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development undertakes action oriented research for development of technologies and demonstration packages towards sustainable development suited to local specificities.

Global Information System for Conservation of forests

†5061. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to use satellite based global information system and computers for immediate detection of conservation of forests, its asessment and erosion;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the Global Information System and computers are likely to be put to use?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.